Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-048
Wednesday
11 March 1992

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-048 *11 March 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Documentary on 'Defense of Socialist Fatherland' *[Havana TV]* 2
Castro Visits Agricultural Workers in Havana *[Havana Radio]* 3
Raul Castro Continues Havana Province Tour *[Havana TV]* 3
Construction Workers Relocated to Agriculture *[Havana Radio]* 3
Ross Leal Meets PRC Trade Union Delegation *[Havana TV]* 4
Spanish Mayors Demand End of U.S. Embargo *[Havana Radio]* 4
Havana Reports on Deaths Due to Embargo on Iraq *[Havana Radio]* 4
Havana Reports Yeltsin Decree on Military Control *[Havana TV]* 4
Havana Notes Continued Russian Economic Decline *[Havana Radio]* 4
Aldana Foresees Direct Legislative Elections *[Hamburg DPA]* 5

Haiti

Senate Votes To Meet in National Assembly *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Deputies Issue Press Release on Nerette Address *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
ADIH Urges Chambers To Ratify Agreement *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Denis, Roy Comment on 23 Feb Agreement *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Roy: Regime Will Lose in Confrontation *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
CATH Calls For Quick Ratification of Agreement *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Air Force Allegedly Tied to Drug Cartels *[San Salvador Radio]* 8
Rebels Demand Explanation *[San Salvador Radio]* 8
ARENA Leader Says Copaz Not Delaying Agreements *[San Salvador Radio]* 9

Honduras

Military 'Willing To Throw Out' FMLN Troops *[Panama City ACAN]* 9
Troops on 'State of Alert' *[AFP]* 9

Nicaragua

D. Ortega in Ocotal To Help Resolve Conflict *[BARRICADA 8 Mar]* 10

Panama

Linares on U.S. Court Ruling Rejecting Suit *[Panama City Radio]* 11

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Rejection of Debt Proposal 'Shrugged Off' *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 10 Mar]* 12

Brazil

CIS Scientists To Be Hired for Space Program *[O GLOBO 10 Mar]* 12
Details of Paris Club Agreement Explained *[Brasilia Radio]* 12
Ministry Approves Petrobras Investment Plan *[Brasilia Radio]* 13

Chile

Pinochet Says His Rank Equals 'Chief of State' *[Santiago TV]* 13
Official Document on Honecker Case Released 13
Almeyda To Remain in Chile *[Santiago Radio]* 13
Envoy Travels to Moscow *[Santiago Radio]* 14
Costa Rica's President Ends 'Positive' Visit *[Santiago Radio]* 14

Colombia

Government Issues Document on Peace Negotiations *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 14
Guerrilla Spokesman Comments on Peace Talks *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 15
Government To Spend More on Security, Defense *[Madrid EFE]* 15

Paraguay

Army Commander Discusses State of Armed Forces *[NOTICIAS 8 Mar]* 16

Peru

Fujimori To Create Urban Defense Patrols *[EL COMERCIO 22 Feb]* 18
Senator Denounces Withdrawal From Copper Council *[LA REPUBLICA 21 Feb]* 18

Venezuela

Perez Issues Decrees on Leadership Changes 19
New Cabinet Ministers Appointed *[Caracas TV]* 19
Investment, COPRE Ministers Named *[Caracas TV]* 19
Acting Attorney General Appointed *[Caracas TV]* 19
Perez Discusses Changes *[Caracas TV]* 19
President, Ministers Make Statements *[Caracas TV]* 20
New Foreign Minister Meets Press *[Caracas TV]* 21
'Mass Protest Demonstration' Called For 10 Mar 22
Armed Forces Placed on Alert *[Madrid EFE]* 22
Caracas, Interior Protests Reported *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 23
Interior Minister Addresses Nation *[Caracas Radio]* 24
Banging of Pots, Pans Reported *[AFP]* 25
Situation 'Back to Normal' *[Caracas TV]* 25

Venezuela

President Carlos Andres Perez appointed seven new members of his executive cabinet and a provisional attorney general at a swearing-in ceremony on 10 March at the Miraflores Palace, Caracas TV reports. The new cabinet includes two members of the opposition party COPEI: Foreign Minister Humberto Calderon Berti and Venezuelan Investment Fund President Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon.

Madrid EFE reports that the Venezuelan Army was "confined to garrisons and placed on a state of alert" in response to a call for a "mass protest demonstration" on 10 March against the Perez government. In an official communique, Defense Ministry spokesman, Rear Admiral Jose Huizi, stated: "The Armed Forces are totally united, prepared, and ready to defend the democratic system, constitutionality, and sovereignty of the Republic." According to Mexico City NOTIMEX, "disturbances and antigovernment demonstrations" took place in Caracas and throughout the interior of the country. Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz told Caracas radio that the government had "absolute control of the situation" and that it was "perfectly capable of guaranteeing tranquillity and order."

Honduras

ACAN suggests that the threat of war between Honduras and El Salvador is "evident once again." In a warning directed at the FMLN located in "pockets" along the border, a Honduran official said that the Armed Forces are "willing to throw out" the Salvadoran guerrillas.

AFP reports that the Honduran troops have, in fact, been placed on a state of alert along the border zones with El Salvador and Nicaragua. This step is prompted by charges that FMLN troops are occupying disputed Honduran-Salvadoran border territory, and the recent alleged penetration of Honduran territory by armed Nicaraguan groups.

Chile

Santiago television carries General Augusto Pinochet's statement that no one can replace him because his military rank is "equal to that of a chief of state." Pinochet has rejected a government initiative to amend an article of the Constitution which establishes that Armed Forces' commanders in chief cannot be removed by the president of the Republic.

The Foreign Ministry released an official statement on the Erich Honecker case yesterday and reported that the Chilean Government plans to "intensify its contacts with Moscow and Bonn in an effort to achieve a satisfactory end to this situation," Santiago radio reports. James Holger, a member of the Chilean mission to the United Nations, is traveling to Moscow as a "special envoy" to seek a "legal solution" to the case.

Colombia

The government has just revealed a 13-point document "that must be complied with in order to sign a peace accord with the guerrillas," reports Santa Fe de Bogota TV. The document is the basis for the peace negotiations that began 10 March in Mexico. Madrid EFE reports that the government announced on 10 March that it will "allocate more funds for national security and defense and will strengthen the Armed Forces to confront the many afflictions, such as the guerrillas, that disturb public order."

Brazil

Education Minister Jose Goldemberg announced that the Aeronautical Technology Institute will select 20 scientists from Russian universities and research centers to lecture and conduct research in order to "improve the Brazilian space program," according to O GLOBO. In a speech to the Institute's inaugural class, Goldemberg said: "The Russians are experts in aerodynamics, propulsion, and other areas, and may share important experiences with our scientists."

Cuba

Documentary on 'Defense of Socialist Fatherland'

PA1003180292

[Editorial Report] Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 2238 GMT on 9 March carries an approximately 30-minute documentary called "Defense of the Socialist Fatherland." The first 12 minutes of the film cover Cuban geography and history including the assault on the Moncada Garrison, landing of the Granma, and the "war of liberation under the leadership of Fidel Castro." At approximately 2250 GMT an unidentified narrator begins recounting Cuban history following the triumph of the Revolution. "On 17 May 1959, only four and a half months after the triumph, the Revolution crossed its Rubicon when it proclaimed its first agrarian reform." He then says that "noting its interests were being affected," the United States decided to destroy it, "the blockade and military threats have been a constant aspect of U.S. policy toward Cuba." The economic blockade began 30 years ago when the United States banned trade in spare parts, food, and medicine. The narrator says if Cuba had not fought "blow with blow," it would have been destroyed at the very beginning.

The narrator recalls that "in the late seventies, with the coming to power of a much more reactionary Republican administration, aggression against Cuba heightened," thus proving any opportunity would be used to attack the island, for example the "ill-named Radio Marti," and the establishment of a television channel during the Bush administration, "efforts that have been successfully rejected by Cuba." "At present, the possibility of conflagration between the superpowers has decreased and the world has become progressively unipolar. Thus, the United States has seen an increase in its possibilities for taking action in the Third World." The narrator quotes President George Bush: "We can now see a new world is near, a world in which a new perspective for a new world order exists. The war in the Persian Gulf was the first test for this new world. We passed the test successfully." The narrator then quotes General Colin Powell: "I am getting rid of the devils; I am getting rid of the villains. Only Castro and Kim Il-song are left."

The narrator goes on to speak of the forces the United States has permanently stationed in Florida, only 90 miles from Cuba, "15 to 20 times more U.S. troops than Cuban troops and their technology is superior." "Morally, Cuba may have strong international support in a war against the United States; but from the material point of view, it has only its own forces." The narrator then states this is how the idea of the "war of all the people" was born and this is the "basis of our military doctrine." He then explains the defense measures implemented in Cuba and how "the people, in general," participate in the defense of the fatherland. The main method of fighting will be "the combined method. This means that conventional and unconventional methods will be used according to the situation." "It will be a long war because it will be necessary to harass, wear down, and bleed a strong enemy. The struggle will not end so long as the enemy occupies part of our territory." To carry out the struggle "we will have to depend on our own resources because Cuba will be subjected to a military blockade. It will be a total war."

The narrator describes the composition of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. The FAR has more than 30 large units. The conventional troops are "shield and armed vanguard to reject the enemy and inflict large losses on the enemy." The largest number of troops comprise the "land forces." He says the "main duty of the FAR during times of peace is productive activities while in times of war, they become combat units."

The narrator begins describing the composition of the Territorial Militia Troops, "an important part of the FAR." The militia troops have more than 1 million members in more than "300 regiments or similar units." Their main duty is the "defense of the territory." The Territorial Militia Troops are "financed mostly with voluntary donations from the people." There are production and defense brigades, each made up of 40 or 50 men and women "equipped with light weapons. There are currently more than 50,000 brigades and they represent the largest fighting force an area has for its local defense." The goal is that everyone be capable of defending the fatherland. There are two strategic operations: "The strategic operation against a landing in the country" is aimed at preventing an enemy landing and "should a landing occur, reject it." The second strategic operation is called "resistance, wearing out, and victory operation." The main goal of this operation is to "create the conditions to defeat the enemy by inflicting a defeat through a prolonged struggle." The narrator states that "regions, centers, and fortified sites are being formed to defend the most important objectives in the country," and that mountain regions, swamp areas, and more than 1,000 quays are also being readied "to continue the struggle under occupation." He says "the war of all the people requires a solid training system"; FAR and militia officers and defense council leaders are being trained throughout the country. In addition, strategic exercises are carried out nationwide on a regular basis.

The narrator indicates: "The system to manage the country in times of war is headed by the National Defense Council" and the "Army General Command Staff is in charge of armed strife in our territory." The latter "will implement a sole program to ensure the effective use of forces in accordance with decisions made by the commander in chief." The narrator also reports that a "technical procurement system" has been devised and includes "the production of arms, especially light weaponry." "Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has ordered that we not stop until each citizen has a rifle, a mine, or a grenade," he notes.

The narrator points out "the careful preparation of all the Cuban people and the solidarity that would arise justly to defend us are strong arguments to dissuade the

enemy from aggression against our country." and adds, however, that if the United States should attack, the country will have to postpone the implementation of the socialist program and all Cubans are to confront the attacker. He stresses, "Our main strategic weapon is the Cuban people."

The narrator then speaks of the single party system and says that it is necessary to further the Revolution. "We have adopted such a system and will defend it, despite being under a state of siege." He stresses the fact that "the existence of other parties would only weaken us as they would open political spaces to forces that oppose the Revolution and have historically been unconditional allies of U.S. Governments." The program ends by citing FAR Minister General Raul Castro's statement: "The avoidance of war is equivalent to winning it."

Castro Visits Agricultural Workers in Havana

FL1003192592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has visited areas of the Guira de Melena Miscellaneous Crop Enterprise in Havana. During his tour, he spoke with students from the Latin American Polytechnic School and mobilized workers at the new type camp, Victory Smiles, who explained to the leader of the Revolution the excellent results obtained from potato, tomato, plantain, yucca, and other crops.

Raul Castro Continues Havana Province Tour

FL1103023592 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] During his tour of Melena del Sur, Artemisa, and Guira de Melena, Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Minister Raul Castro Ruz, along with several Politburo members and high-ranking officers of the FAR and the Ministry of the Interior, observed the dynamic way agricultural tasks are being carried out in those municipalities in southern Havana Province. During their tour, the working group was told that the province will produce 10.5 million quintals of vegetables and tubers during the current harvest, including production by the state and small farming sectors.

To achieve this goal, in Havana Province there are 35 contingents working for two years, and other groups of workers mobilized for two weeks at a time. Effective support is provided to these groups by students from 60 schools working regularly in the fields alongside the men. In the vegetable crops enterprises in Havana Province, each camp has a set area, which makes it possible for the workers to gain greater experience in the activities they carry out, while they come to identify more with their tasks.

In a speech during this working day, Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, a Politburo member, stressed the need for the Ministry of Education to expand even more its policy of training school graduates to make them better future cadres. To this end, the Ministry of Agriculture is already taking its first steps, since it is training the farm managers, and the technicians are directly connected with their work at the base level.

At (Guajenes) Camp in Melena del Sur, Division General Rigoberto Garcia Fernandez, chief of the Youth Labor Army [EJT], stated that the implementation of more direct participation in the production process at the vegetable crops farms where EJT soldiers are present is currently being studied. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture has proposed working in coordination on these new work principles of the EJT.

The combatants of Battalions 605 and 607 in Guira de Melena and Artemisa, respectively, were also visited. They expressed to the visitors that they would make their best efforts so as to make their commitment to the people a reality.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified combatant] So today we want to affirm to you and the commander in chief that we here are willing to fulfill this mission here for as long as necessary.

[Second unidentified combatant] And contribute with our work and our efforts to saving the nation, the Revolution, and socialism, as the party and the commander in chief have asked us to do, and this is really what every revolutionary should do.

[Castro] So we are now beginning to see that the problems can be solved. We cannot allow a general collapse, or collapses or pessimism by any of us individually. Today the people are beginning to understand how difficult it is to produce things. If we do not take care of the land, there will not be anything in the stores. [end recording]

Finally, they met with the members of the Martyrs of the Coubre Contingent at the Las Marias Camp. On this occasion, the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba spoke to the mobilized workers.

[Begin Castro recording] Do you know how much we have spent since the triumph of the Revolution on buying beans alone? Do you? I had some figures [words indistinct] about $1.2 billion. This is now produced here. We bought peppers and garlic in Bulgaria [words indistinct]. Being independent has forced us to live now with whatever we can produce, and everything will depend on our own efforts. So no one is going to help us at all. People are not asking for things, but rather calling on everyone to show what they are doing with what used to be thrown out, junked, etc. [end recording]

Construction Workers Relocated to Agriculture

FL1003192892 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1510 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Approximately 8,000 construction workers, who constitute nine agriculture contingents, are involved in

self-sufficiency efforts, agriculture and livestock production for state collection [acopio], and in support of important programs for tubers and vegetables.

This force has worked on more than 1,500 caballerias, where it has harvested 55,000 quintals of vegetables, orchard products, and grains, and more than 700 quintals of fruit.

Although all regions are making meritorious efforts, the Ciego de Avila and Las Tunas Provinces have excelled in the task. In Las Tunas, the most outstanding experience is that of the 30th Anniversary of the Revolution contingent, which tends the Potosi livestock farm.

Because of the shortage of resources, the Construction Ministry has relocated more than 40,000 workers into agricultural tasks and in high-demand production, among other jobs.

Ross Leal Meets PRC Trade Union Delegation

FL1103023492 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC], today met in the headquarters of that organization with a delegation from the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. The delegation representing the Chinese workers arrived in our country on 8 March and is headed by (Xue Shouyung), the secretary of education and propaganda of the PRC trade unions.

The top leader of the Cuban workers explained to his guests the characteristics of the Cuban trade union movement. Among other figures, he said that 97.5 percent of the workers are affiliated with the CTC, which was founded 53 years ago. In his talks with the Chinese trade union delegation, which is the highest-level delegation to visit our country, Pedro Ross mentioned the special period situation that our country is going through and the efforts that are being made to overcome it. Chinese Ambassador to Cuba Chen Jiuchang also participated in the meeting.

Spanish Mayors Demand End of U.S. Embargo

FL1003223492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2044 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Three hundred mayoral offices in Galicia, Spain, have urged UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali to demand the suspension of the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba and the end of hostilities against the Cuban Government. La Coruna Mayor Miguel Angel Garcia has said that a group of 18 mayors will travel to Cuba on 17 March to give the Cuban Government the document, which is addressed to the United Nations, as well as to donate medications collected in solidarity with the island.

According to Miguel Angel Garcia, the text proposed by the Galician city councils, which is based on national identity and dignity, will also be sent to the U.S. ambassador to Spain. He said that the document describes the Cuban situation after 30 years of Washington's embargo and urges people of all creeds and ideologies to defend the sovereignty of all nations.

Havana Reports on Deaths Due to Embargo on Iraq

FL1003225092 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2037 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Close to 22,000 people have died for lack of food and medicine as a consequence of the economic embargo decreed by the United Nations against Iraq following the recent war in the Persian Gulf. Most of the people affected by the UN resolutions—which prevent Baghdad from making free use of its oil—are women, children, and the elderly, according to a document from the Iraqi Health Ministry disseminated by the press agency INA.

According to this report, more than 8,000 children under five years of age have died from diarrhea, respiratory illnesses, and infectious ailments that under different circumstances would be curable. The report sent to the United Nations adds that approximately 120,000 persons have died since the beginning of the embargo that prevents Iraq from using part of its funds to acquire medicines and foodstuffs.

Havana Reports Yeltsin Decree on Military Control

FL1003223392 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cubavision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] A decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin has put all the military detachments of the former Soviet Union stationed in other countries under the control of the Government of the Russian Republic. The decree states that while the Russian Ministry of Defense is being organized, these military units will come under the control of the CIS Unified Command.

However, the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper published a survey today which shows that only 17 percent of the military in Russian territory support the government's actions. The newspaper notes that by analyzing the survey's results, one can observe an increase in sociopolitical tensions within the Armed Forces in Russia.

Havana Notes Continued Russian Economic Decline

FL1003153292 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] The latest reports on the economic situation in the Russian Republic reveal a sharpening of the tendency toward a continued decline without predicting when a possible boost, basically in the industrial sector, may occur.

During a news conference held in Moscow on 9 March, Russian Industry Minister Aleksandr Titkin confirmed that industrial production is currently experiencing great difficulties due to the break up of economic ties, the lack of sufficient investments, and the deterioration of equipment.

He also said that the reduction of industrial production in enterprises will continue during the coming months without a foreseeable change in the situation.

Aldana Foresees Direct Legislative Elections

PA1103020892 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1425 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Article by Juan Carlos Salazar]

[Text] Havana, 10 March (DPA)—Carlos Aldana, the ideologue of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), has stated that Cuba's internal opposition will have every "opportunity" to be elected to parliament during the first direct legislative elections scheduled for October 1992.

During an exclusive interview given to DPA, the high official said that any citizen "fully exercising his civilian rights," and without ideological limitations, can strive to occupy a parliamentary bench despite the uniparty system in force.

"Those in the opposition have all the available opportunities that the rest of the people have," he said. "The only limit is the law," Aldana stressed. He, however, reaffirmed that "nobody, just because he is in the opposition, is excluded from the law; absolutely nobody."

He noted that the next parliament could be pluralist "in ideas, opinions, and points of view" but will not be multiparty. He is of the opinion that the elections will favor, "overwhelmingly, socialist thought and an identification with the party's program because they represent the country's true feelings."

Although Aldana said he did not believe any social organization would present an opposition member as a candidate, he said any member of a human rights group or any person who "says he belongs to X party" will have the chance, "as an individual," of being "proposed and elected candidate in a community," according to the regulations of the first direct election process.

During the interview in his PCC Central Committee office, Aldana reviewed the political, institutional, and economic changes approved in the recent PCC Congress held in Santiago de Cuba in October 1991. He warned that all of the changes that fall within the framework of the so-called "process of correcting mistakes and negative trends" are to "modernize and perfect socialist democracy," not to destroy or change the system that has governed the island since the revolutionary victory in 1959.

Aldana also said the approved changes are conditioned by "geopolitical realities; by current trends; by the priorities of the moment, which are survival; and by the fact that no one can ask Cuba to make changes as they ask other countries that form part of the world consensus and enjoy that consensus."

"We have been isolated from the world consensus. While there is talk of new thought, a new mentality, and new room for understanding, the United States has maintained an immovable policy toward Cuba," Aldana said. He added: "An immovable policy that has become a vicious circle. The United States says that as long as Cuba refuses to change its policy, it will not change its uncompromising stand. We say that as long as the United States does not change its unyielding stand, it absolutely cannot expect us to modify our positions."

Regarding the possibility of attaining membership in the new National Assembly of the People's Government—the name by which parliament is known—Aldana reiterated that the only limitation will be the law.

"Be he a member of a human rights group or X party, it does not matter. He must be in full use of his personal rights. If, for example, a person is not under house arrest he can aspire to membership. If he is elected by the people he will be a candidate and must appear on the ticket," he pointed out. "Regardless of who it may be, even Elizardo Sanchez Santacruz or Gustavo Arcos," he said, alluding to two of Cuba's most widely known human rights activists.

When asked how this fits in with a recent incident involving Sanchez, who was attacked by members of the self-styled "Rapid Action Group" while he was on his way to a meeting, Aldana said that incident was not "ordered" or "premeditated," but a "natural reaction by the people" in response to Sanchez' activities.

Sanchez informed the international press that he was detained for several hours and that repression against native dissidents has intensified following condemnation by the United Nations Human Rights Commission, but Aldana denied the accusation and said the police "acted in Sanchez' defense."

Aldana, who is considered the "number three" man in Cuba's hierarchy, admitted that in Cuba there are groups, "almost 60 of them," that maintain positions that are "totally adverse" to the government, but he said they are not persecuted or harassed because of that, "as long as they obey the law."

"In Cuba there are exponents of ideological positions that are adverse to ours; but these positions come from individuals, not real forces that exert such pressure that we have no alternative but to acknowledge them, or that we cannot refuse to agree to do this or that, as happened in Eastern Europe, where real forces—no one can deny that—created a compulsive, de facto situation that demanded a change," Aldana said.

Regarding a multiparty system, Aldana said Cuba comes from such a system. He said Cuba had a "bourgeoisie democracy," political parties, a bicameral parliament, and "even a capitol just like the one in the United States."

Aldana added: "We are not like the Russians who did not know democracy and who do not know what a parliament is. During the first months of perestroyka, the Russians formed long lines at the Parliament behind

a microphone, as they did in front of bakeries to buy bread, because they did not realize they could ask for the floor from their seats."

Aldana explained that Cuba's traditional political parties "either dissolved themselves, or faded away, or simply disappeared" after the triumph of the Revolution, with the exception of three parties that merged to form today's PCC. He added that for the island "to be able to resist and confront the adversary's challenge" it must have "a high degree of domestic cohesion and national unity on the basis of an enterprise we view as patriotic."

Aldana noted: "If we were to succumb to the pluriparty proposition, we would have more than 500 parties in a week's time because each Cuban is a party. [Quotation marks as received] That, he added, "would make room for a party that would represent U.S. interests in our country. You do not have to be an oracle to realize this."

Aldana added: "We had a costly and bloody war after the Revolution. We faced counterrevolutionary bands throughout the country and we had to pay a high price to eliminate them. There were almost 300 counterrevolutionary bands. We are not going to deliver to the United States what it was unable to get by fire and sword."

Aldana reported that the "salient" aspect of Cuba's single party system is that the party does not choose candidates for elections; the candidates "are chosen by the people freely" and this system, which until now had been implemented at the municipal level, will be expanded to the provincial and national level in new elections in which the citizens will deposit their ballots directly and secretly.

Aldana affirmed: "We have never gone for the aberrant single candidate ruling of the Soviet Union. We have up to eight candidates for each municipality. We have nothing similar to the unbelievable situation that existed in East Germany where the citizens' grand election performance consisted not in entering the voting booths but in depositing their ballots just as they were handed to them. This cannot be called an election."

Regarding the coming elections, Aldana said "there are matters on which decisions are still pending," including the various ways in which candidates may be chosen. The Constitution has yet to be modified and a new electoral law approved for the forthcoming elections.

Aldana said there is a "corporative trend" that proposes the choosing of candidates by social sectors, forces, and structures, in addition to those chosen by neighborhood and municipal assemblies. Aldana said these changes are aimed at "improving" the Revolution and socialism.

He noted: "The idea is not to dismantle the system. Others have made that mistake. They did away with what they had and now they have nothing to replace what is gone. That vacuum has been filled with chaos, disorder, and anarchy. Instead of resolving problems that did exist, they now have additional problems, perhaps bigger than those they had before the reforms."

Aldana concluded by stating: "The perfecting of a revolution means the revolution will continue to exist. It is irrational to claim that one is perfecting a revolution by destroying it. We have ideas on how to perfect the Cuban Revolution while safeguarding it and making it stronger and more solid. Some may believe that when we say stronger we mean more authoritarian, but our premise is that the more democratic we become, the stronger we will be."

Haiti

Senate Votes To Meet in National Assembly

FL1103143092 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The two Chambers decided yesterday, 10 March, to meet in the National Assembly for the ratification of the agreement. This decision gave rise to countless discussions before being voted upon at the Senate because there are senators who think that no article of the Constitution gives the president of the Parliament the right to convoke the National Assembly. In spite of the arguments raised by several senators, the Upper Chamber voted—by 11 votes for and 10 votes against—the decision to meet in the National Assembly for the ratification of the agreement protocol. [passage omitted]

Deputies Issue Press Release on Nerette Address

FL1103143192 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Press release signed by 20 Lower Chamber deputies; place and date not given]

[Text] We, deputies of the 45th Legislature, who have signed this note after having followed the historic message of the provisional president of the Republic on Friday, 6 March, see that there is nothing threatening or intimidating in it against the parliamentarians. On the contrary, the president of the Republic is a result of the implementation of Article 149 of the Constitution and he has shown patriotism, wisdom, and composure by urging all Haitians, especially the parliamentarians involved in the agreement signed in Washington, to act patriotically and respectfully toward the Constitution and to safeguard the national sovereignty.

This note is signed by Deputies Paris Moise, Joseph Benoit Laguerre, Emmanuel Reyme, Olipcial Regis, Josue Lafrance, Benoit Beaubrun, Gabriel Sanon, Marie Junie Creve-Coeur, Jonas Louis, Geffrard Etienne, Delicier Geffrard, Rita Frederic Moncoeur, Lonnes Joseph, Joseph Bomier, Deus Jean-Francois, Stephen Moise, Walto Augustin, Pierre Vital, Jean-Gerald Charlotin, and Gabriel A. Clerval.

ADIH Urges Chambers To Ratify Agreement

FL1003171692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Communique by the Haitian Association of Industries issued in Port-au-Prince on 9 March]

[Text] From October 1991 to now, the Haitian economy has collapsed causing the shutdown of factories, mass dismissals of workers and managers, aggravation to the energy crisis, bankruptcy in trade and agriculture, and an ecological catastrophe. Consequently and following its 11 October 1991 stand in favor of a negotiated solution to the crisis, the Haitian Association of Industries [ADIH] urges the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies urgently to ratify the agreement signed in Washington on 23 February.

ADIH is convinced that only through the enforcement of this pact will normalization of the economic, social, and political of the national life be realized.

it should be noted that in the same sector, that is the private sector, the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry [CCIH] gave its opinion on the agreement approximately 15 days ago. While bringing its support to this agreement signed in Washington on 23 February, CCIH also demanded that this agreement be voted on urgently and ended its letter to the parliamentarians with the famous cry: " We have had enough!"

Denis, Roy Comment on 23 Feb Agreement

FL1003221892 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Carl Denis finds contradictions in the agreement signed on 23 February and the agreement concluded the next day between Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Prime Minister-designate Rene Theodore. Carl Denis also points out that the ratification of the Washington agreement will not automatically bring about the lifting of the embargo.

Jean-Claude Roy, [leader of the Union of Haitian Constitutionalists] who has already approved the Washington agreement, seeks the departure of the provisional executive so the agreement can be implemented. [passage omitted]

Roy: Regime Will Lose in Confrontation

FL1003212092 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The executive will lose if it chooses to enter into a confrontation with the Haitian Parliament. This is the statement of Union of Haitian Constitutionalists Secretary General Jean-Claude Roy. The constitutionalist says the provisional president greatly surprised him in his 6 March 1992 message.

Jean-Claude Roy thinks Judge Nerette's speech has endangered the country's sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Jean-Claude Roy thinks there are possibilities for the ratification of the agreement so the country's economy can be boosted when a consensus government is established in the country. [passage omitted]

CATH Calls For Quick Ratification of Agreement

FL1003221992 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] The information secretary at the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, CATH, Joseph Manusci Pierre, asks that the Haitian Parliament ratify the 23 February agreement within 48 hours. Mr. Manusci is asking the provisional president and the Honorat government to make a patriotic gesture by leaving power. The CATH Information Secretariat advises the parliamentarians to call on the people that gave them their mandate if they have problems over ratifying the Washington agreement.

[Begin recording] [Manusci, in progress] ...paralyzed; more than 45,000 workers have been fired. All the factories are closed. There is no freedom of meeting. The peasants are at bay.

Therefore such a situation is unacceptable. That is why I am asking all patriots to hold firm in order to release the media, the Haitian people in general and their representatives. We are also asking the parliamentarians to stay firm and not be intimidated so they can ratify the agreement within 48 hours. If they have problems in the achievement of this mission, they must call on the people who gave them their mandate and elected them to the Chamber to give them support. The country, the Haitian people, everyone is tired of living in this crisis. The people now in power have done nothing. I do not know why they are being stubborn in hanging on to power. I am asking Mr. Nerette as well as Mr. Honorat to make a gesture, to take their belongings and leave before the masses take to the street. [end recording]

El Salvador

Air Force Allegedly Tied to Drug Cartels

PA1003145892 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has just demanded that President Alfredo Cristiani explain to the Salvadoran people the loss of weapons from Air Force headquarters. During a news conference held a few minutes ago at one of the FMLN offices in San Salvador, the rebel organization said the loss of weapons endangers the peace process. The FMLN said the Salvadoran extreme right wing has links with drug traffickers. Commander Herson Martinez, a member of the FMLN Political Committee said the following:

[Begin Martinez recording] There is much concern among the people about the appearance of a drug trafficking ring working within high levels of the military, specifically within the Air Force, which has controlled the country's air space for almost 12 years. I am worried because the man who was captured —Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Antonio Leiva—is one of the three main Air Force commanders. Sergeant Jose Luz Parada Torres is also a close collaborator of the Air Force High Command. We believe the appearance of this gang is part of a larger problem that affects the government's integrity, the security of the nation, and the civilian population.

Allow me to remind you that there have been previous incidents. In 1985, a small plane was seized in Texas with $6 million aboard. A man by the name of Viola, who was connected with the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], was captured at that time. U.S. Government sources stated that the money, $6 million, was headed for ARENA and President Cristiani's political campaign. He is now the president. That is one of the incidents. In 1988, there was another incident. A plane accident occurred at the (Balachera) Base in the western part of the country. When the civilian authorities went to inspect the site, they found cocaine. Army Commander Colonel Natividad de Jesus Caseres Cabrera did not go there and did not send any men. He actually acted negligently by going the next day. Certain sources say he did so because other high level officers of the Armed Forces were involved in this case of cocaine trafficking. The DEA also issued a report a few years ago in which they implicated Col. Manfredo Koeningsbergt, present deputy commander of the Air Force, in drug trafficking. Apparently, the problem is quite serious.

In addition to this, it is intriguing how the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces has retained the services of a Colombian officer as an adviser to the Salvadoran Armed Forces. This Colombian, who goes by the name of Oscar Trujillo, has very close relations with the former founders of Arena. He has held meetings with these people at headquarters. They have held several meetings at various places to plan the sabotage of the peace process. Why is this Colombian meeting with founders of the ARENA? Why is he meeting (Armando Panama)? Why is he meeting with (Jose Roberto), Cornejo Arango, Fernando Cabrera, and (Tomas Villanova)? Why is he meeting such people, some of whom are implicated in kidnappings, such as Cornejo Arango, who has family ties with (Joel Avalez)? These are people who have a long record of ties with the extreme right wing.

Thus, it is clear that the extreme right wing, during these long years, amid the confusion of the war and under the cover of the counterinsurgency war....[pauses] Now, we do not wish to generalize the right wing. There is a political right wing, which has reflected and made significant changes that have contributed to the changes in the country. Then there is the extreme right wing, which is quite small, that continues to have one foot in government and the other foot in drug trafficking.

This extreme right wing has an alliance with drug trafficking. This is a narco-right wing, which trades with cocaine and weapons. Just look at what they were taking to Colombia: almost 2,000 lb of explosives, and four 500-pound bombs that were used in the war against the people. Now they want to drop them on a prison in Colombia. Why is the Salvadoran Air Force involved in a squabble between two drug trafficking gangs? Who is protecting us? What security can the civilian population have? The Cristiani government has just presented an inventory of its weapons. It seems those weapons are being sent to Colombia, to a war between drug traffickers; not against drug trafficking, but between drug traffickers. They must give an explanation. [end recording]

Rebels Demand Explanation

PA1003135492 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Salvadoran guerrillas have linked the country's extreme right wing to the plot to bomb the Colombian prison of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, Medellin cartel chief. The rebels have demanded an explanation on the participation of Salvadoran Air Force members in the plot.

Dr. Mauricio Gutierrez Castro, president of the Salvadoran Supreme Court, appealed to the judges to be very diligent and stringent on crimes related to the drug mafia. He offered his support to the magistrates in fulfilling their duty.

Herson Martinez, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's Political Committee, linked the extreme right wing sector with the plot against Escobar. During a news conference, Martinez accused that sector of participating in the government and drug trafficking at the same time. There is an extreme right wing that has changed, but there is another one which has one foot in drug trafficking and the other foot in the government, the FMLN leader charged.

The Salvadoran military high command reported in a communique that a total of 10 persons—seven Salvadorans, two Guatemalans, and one Cuban—were summoned before the courts on 8 March for plotting to drop 250 kg of bombs on the prison, located in the Colombian department of Anitoquia, where Escobar Gaviria has been in custody since last year.

There are three Salvadoran military officers implicated in the case. They are accused of stealing bombs and other military materiel from the depot of Comalapa Air Force Base, near the Salvadoran international airport, that were to be used in the attack. The Salvadoran guerrillas ask: Why is the Salvadoran Air Force implicated in a quarrel between two bands of drug traffickers? We call for an explanation.

A spokesperson for the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, confirmed that Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Antonio Leiva, Sergeant Jose Luis Parada, and Pablo Mencivar, who belong to the Air Force, have been consigned to the tribunals.

According to other judicial reports, the attack against Escobar was organized by the Cali Cartel, which is active in the third most important city of Colombia and is considered the principal rival of the Medellin Cartel-.[passage omitted]

ARENA Leader Says Copaz Not Delaying Agreements

PA1003214092 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Armando Calderon Sol, president of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, and mayor of San Salvador, said there is no political ill will on the part of members of Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] to delay the fulfillment of the agreements signed in Mexico between the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the government.

Calderon Sol said the delays are the result of Copaz structure, and that a failure to agree on certain issues will preclude their approval.

Honduras

Military 'Willing To Throw Out' FMLN Troops

PA1103120492 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Report by German Reyes]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 10 March (ACAN)—The threat of war between Honduras and El Salvador was evident once again on 10 March when Honduran soldiers warned that they are willing to throw out the Salvadoran guerrillas from "pockets" in border zones that are under dispute.

The warning directed at the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) was made by Colonel Claudio Lainez, defense and public security minister of Honduras, who said the Armed Forces are "willing to throw out" the Salvadoran guerrillas from "pockets" that the latter occupy.

The FMLN has occupied the land under dispute since 1979. This occurred before the general offensive initiated in 1980, an offensive that led to a war lasting almost 12 years in the neighboring country.

Honduras and El Salvador are disputing approximately 400 sq km of land distributed in seven "pockets" along their mutual border. The border is over 400 km long. The quarrel will be settled next June by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague. The two countries in question agreed in 1980 to let that organization settle the conflict once their armies could not settle the conflict by means of a war that lasted 100 hours in June 1969.

Lainez said Honduran President Rafael Callejas has ordered the Armed Forces to pay "constant attention to the border with El Salvador to safeguard the interests of the Honduran people."

Lainez also stressed that the FMLN is not a threat because its intention is to solve El Salvador's internal problems through peaceful means. [passage omitted]

Troops on 'State of Alert'

PA1003185392 Paris AFP in Spanish 1732 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Mar (AFP)—Honduran troops have been placed on a "state of alert" along the border zones with El Salvador and Nicaragua. This follows several incidents reported over the past few days, Defense Minister Colonel Claudio Lainez said on 10 March.

Border troops were advised of the alert status, although the military presence in the region has not been increased, according to Lainez. He said the border with Nicaragua has been strengthened in view of the fear that Nicaraguan rearmed "contras and recompas" may enter Honduran territory, following last week's protests in Ocotal, on the Honduran border.

As for El Salvador, the defense minister said the state of alert was prompted by charges by municipal mayors that 200 Salvadoran families have been given lands by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in disputed territories with Honduras.

Civilian authorities said the head of each family was given three hectares in the zone of Dolores, jurisdiction of La Paz Department. This is one of the six departments on the Honduran-Salvadoran border that is in dispute. The border dispute is pending a ruling by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] in The Hague.

Honduran inhabitants of the region charged on 9 March that they are constantly harassed by Salvadorans, who recently settled in Dolores and steal their cattle and property.

They said some 6,000 Salvadorans have been established in Dolores, despite the fact that the peace treaty signed by the two countries in 1980—which restored relations after the July 1969 soccer war— prohibits activities in the areas in dispute pending the ICJ ruling.

Colonel Napoleon Santos, director of public relations for the Armed Forces, said that because of that prohibition the Army cannot confirm charges that Salvadoran families have occupied such areas.

Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata said that "for us it is not an admitted fact that lands are being distributed to Salvadorans in areas in dispute."

The official voiced his confidence that the ICJ will issue a ruling in 90 to 100 days, that is, before 30 June. In such a case, he said it "is advisable to wait, not because we are letting down our guard, but because the ruling will determine the legal situation of the region."

The denounced illegal penetration in Dolores was denied by President Alfredo Cristiani, the FMLN, and the UN Observers for El Salvador.

Foreign Minister Mario Carias said that Honduras protested the penetration by armed Nicaraguan groups, who in the past few days killed an 18-year-old student, identified as Antonio Ordonez, and wounded six other persons in El Guayabo, El Triunfo Municipality, Choluteca Department.

Carias reported that El Guayabo inhabitants charged the crime was carried out by Sandinists (recompas), although other reports say they were "recontras."

Honduras has maintained the policy of not allowing Nicaraguans or Salvadorans passage into the country as they did in the past. According to official sources, if this occurs, such persons will be established temporarily in camps and returned within 24 hours to the Red Cross in their country.

Nicaragua

D. Ortega in Ocotal To Help Resolve Conflict

PA1003164592 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Mar 92 pp 1, 10

[Report by Martha Marina Gonzalez]

[Text] Ocotal—Talks between the government and the rebels occupying this city since 5 March were suspended at daybreak on 7 March without any progress reported. Disarmament, which the rebels have linked with the gradual fulfillment of their demands, remains the major obstacle.

The government has proposed an immediate disarmament and said "it will not accept positions of force." Both the recontras and the recompas, whom the Segovian people have renamed "the mixed", requested a break to speak with their followers. On 7 March, they failed to return to the scheduled 1400 hours meeting.

On the evening of 7 March, Commanders Daniel Ortega and Victor Tirado, members of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate, arrived in Ocotal to help resolve the conflict.

The first signs of progress were realized when the government endorsed the challenge to legalize the properties and the rebels accepted an offer to join a mixed agrarian commission. This commission will study the properties and perspectives for an equitable distribution of land.

The men who took up arms rejected government answers on education, health, roads, and other issues. A government representative at the commission said "all of this was included in the Political Constitution of the Republic."

In the middle of a tense atmosphere surrounded by soldiers and numerous residents, the parties began to negotiate on the morning of 7 March.

At 0400, a dangerous incident occurred when the government representative, Mr. Sandino, ordered rebel chief "Memin" to return 18 vehicles "which had been taken illegally."

The rebel chief responded by demanding respect and denying the charges, "because we are fighting for just demands, the people here are hungry and capable of stealing; perhaps you have never been hungry." A mandatory recess reduced the tension.

When the talks resumed, the official offered to provide construction materials to build 319 housing units in a two-month period, based on the number of lots the rebels possess. He said that 60 days later, construction of more houses on other lots will follow.

The rebels, however, voiced their lack of confidence in the government commission. The disarmament "should be gradual; for each number of houses, the same amount of rifles."

Sandinist Leaders Visit the Site

Commanders Ortega and Tirado met on the evening of 7 March with the staff of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] and Government Ministry authorities.

A long working meeting followed with civilian authorities, including mayor Arnulfo Aguilera Maradiaga and all the councilmen, recontras and recompas, and government representatives.

Sandinist leaders and officials learned about the demands and progress of the negotiations.

Before leaving for Ocotal, former President Daniel Ortega stated "the government should comply with social and economic commitments agreed upon with the rebels—as soon as possible—to avoid further conflicts in the north."

The recontras who participate at the negotiations are Alejandro Espinosa, "Solin;" Ernesto Barrantes, "Damar;" and Maximiliano Barrantes, "Honda Lopez."

Representing the recompas are "Memin," "Jaguar," and "Camelia," who is also the spokesperson for the rebels.

Government Informs Honduras

On 7 March, the Nicaraguan Government informed the Honduran administration of the mobilization of an air squadron and elite troops of the EPS. The Nicaraguan Army said this is not a military deployment, but rather an attempt to avoid "any military friction," Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock said in Managua.

A military spokesman said the rebels abandoned Ocotal because of the presence of elite Army troops outside of town, who are organized in groups. Meanwhile, the negotiations continue.

The insurgents have not left the city, although they are not seen in downtown streets. "We are not going to abandon our positions until the government begins to comply with the agreements," a rebel spokesman said.

The government commission, a rebel chief explained, is trying by all means to persuade us to leave our positions, "but this is very unlikely, particularly after former National Resistance fighters and former Sandinist soldiers remain united."

"We are neither recontras nor recompas; we are armed citizens who make requests from the government," former recontra "Honda Lopez" concluded.

Panama

Linares on U.S. Court Ruling Rejecting Suit

PA1003194792 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Report by Marisel Mendez]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has studied the reasons why the Federal Court of Appeals in Washington rejected as unfair the compensation suit filed by Panamanian businessmen. He said this measure reveals that in the United States justice is not blind.

Recently, different media published reports saying the U.S. State Department would not deliver the canal or the military bases in our territory to Panama, because of security concerns and to control Central and South America. Let us listen to Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares on this report:

[Begin Linares recording] First of all, the U.S. executive branch is responsible for determining when to begin negotiations with Panama on the issue of military bases. This document was reportedly issued by the U.S. State Department.

So far, the United States has not voiced interest in negotiating for the military bases at the diplomatic level. Supposedly, the objective of the military bases in Panama should be to defend and protect the Panama Canal, not defend and protect this part of the American Continent. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the foreign relations minister did not mention the reasons why the Federal Court of Appeals rejected the $80 million suit presented as fair by Panamanian businessmen. The businessmen had filed the suit to demand compensation from the losses incurred due to the looting that followed the invasion.

[Begin Linares recording] I would say this rejection reveals that also in the United States justice is not blind, because, from what I have read in the newspapers, the U.S. Court rejected the compensation suit arguing that at all times Panama maintained sovereignty and the United States never replaced the Panamanian Government. This is absolutely true.

However, the suit filed by Panamanians was not based on this fact, but on the fact that given the military action undertaken by the United States in Panama, the Panamanian Defense Forces were destroyed and the Panamanian Government did not have the capacity to maintain public order. Therefore, the United States, which carried out the military action in Panama, was obliged to preserve public order. Their suit is based on this. [end recording]

These were the statements by Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares.

Argentina

Rejection of Debt Proposal 'Shrugged Off'

PY1003233292 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Argentine foreign debt negotiator Horacio Tomas Liendo shrugged off the rejection of Argentina's proposal for a renegotiation of its commercial debt by the Steering Committee of Creditor Banks saying there is no deadline for the talks currently under way.

Liendo added the Argentine Government will insist on "normalizing (Argentina's) financial relations in 1992."

On this issue, President Carlos Menem's administration will "lay the groundwork as far as possible so that (domestic) costs become comparable to competitor's costs," Liendo said in a radio interview yesterday.

The aim of present policies is that the private sector in Argentina "may have access to international credit lines at costs comparable to those obtained by leading international companies," Liendo added. The rejection of Argentina's foreign debt proposals put forward to the creditor banks by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo on January 30 was made public on Sunday [8 March] by the daily CLARIN.

The daily published a confidential memo sent by the creditor banks to Liendo and fellow foreign debt negotiator Daniel Marx, in which the banks emphasise the "failure" of the Argentine debt reduction menu "in not foreseeing a lump sum cash payment with respect to interest arrears and by attempting to set interests at below market rates and also a ceiling on interest rates of future bonds."

The rejection of the proposal was minimized yesterday by Liendo and Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo. Liendo said the government was trying to limit foreign debt payments to Argentine fiscal possibilities. Menem wants payments "to be within the limits of what Argentina can pay," Liendo added. Cavallo said a new proposal will be presented to the Steering Committee in New York tomorrow.

Liendo will be travelling to the U.S. for the presentation, where he will be joined by Marx. Cavallo is optimistic an agreement will be reached. "One month into the negotiations, if we compare this experience to others, we are much nearer an agreement," Cavallo said.

The creditor banks have requested an up-front 1.1 billion dollar cash payment. Argentina has offered 400 million. Regarding interest payments, Argentina has offered 720 million annually. The Steering Committee wants 1.5 billion.

Additionally, the creditor banks are offering to slash Argentina's commercial debt (ie the debt to the foreign banks) by 30 percent. Argentina has demanded a cut of 40 percent. Another hurdle in the way of an accord is interests. The Steering Committee is asking that proposed interest rates be doubled.

Brazil

CIS Scientists To Be Hired for Space Program

PY1103025892 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—The Aeronautical Technology Institute (ITA) is going to take advantage of the experience and knowledge of the scientists of the CIS—the former USSR—to improve the Brazilian space program. The ITA is selecting 20 scientists for this purpose from Russian universities and research centers. The selected scientists will receive up to $2,000 per month from the Education Ministry's scholarship funds.

This announcement was made yesterday by Education Minister Jose Goldemberg after the inaugural class for the 86 new ITA students. The scientists will start by lecturing and, later on, will carry out research related to the space program.

Goldemberg said: "The Russians are experts in aerodynamics, propulsion, and other areas, and may share important experiences with our scientists."

ITA is making its contacts with CIS scientists through the Russian Embassy. So far, the ITA has the resumes of 15 CIS scientists and another 10 from scientists in England, Germany, France, the United States, and other countries. They were selected from the data bank of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), which has a list of professors and scientists willing to work in Brazil. An ITA team will travel in the next few months to meet and interview the prospective candidates.

Details of Paris Club Agreement Explained

PY1103020892 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Central Bank President Francisco Gros explained the agreement signed between Brazil and the Paris Club to senators today. After the visit of Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira to the Senate plenary session today, it was the Central Bank president's turn to explain to the senators of the Economic Affairs Committee the terms of the agreement signed between Brazil and the Paris Club in February, for the rescheduling of the foreign debt. According to the agreement, Brazil will pay $11 billion in 14 years, with two years of grace, and promises to pay $4.6 billion by 1993.

Brazil has not been paying the Paris Club since 1989. According to the Central Bank president, the agreement signed with the Paris Club will bring benefits to Brazil.

[Begin Gros recording] The agreement is fully compatible with the country's economic program and it was negotiated with our official creditors under those terms.

As we see it, an understanding with the country's creditors is an absolutely essential condition to stability in the country and the recovery of economic growth. Without it, there will be no chance for economic growth. [end recording]

Notwithstanding opposition to the agreement expressed by some senators such as committee Chairman Eduardo Suplicy, Senator Raimundo Lira said there is a positive environment in the committee for approval of the agreement by a majority of senators.

Ministry Approves Petrobras Investment Plan

PY1003031292 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana has reported that the Economy Ministry has approved the Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] investment plan for 1992. The plan provides for an investment of $2.9 billion. According to the minister, the proposals were approved with no cuts at all.

[Begin Santana recording] The investment plan was approved as proposed by the ministry last year and approved by the National Congress. There will be no cuts, and we are maintaining an investment of $2.9 billion as suggested in the Petrobras plan. [end recording]

According to the approved plan, Petrobras will produce an average of 700,000 barrels of petroleum in 1992, and it could reach a production of 1 million barrels in 1995.

Chile

Pinochet Says His Rank Equals 'Chief of State'

PY1103023092 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Today General Augusto Pinochet said that no one can replace him because his military rank is equal to that of a chief of state. This was his answer to a question on the Armed Forces' commanders in chief's irremovable status.

This morning the Telecommunications Command commemorated its 81st anniversary, and the ceremony was presided over by Gen. Pinochet. The general was asked about a meeting on 5 March with Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, the first meeting between the two officials since Pinochet's rejection of the government's initiative to amend an article of the Constitution which established that the Armed Forces' commanders in chief cannot be removed by the president of the Republic.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] I visited him, that is all. What did we talk about? Well, he said many things. [words indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] Did he mention the irremovable status, General?

[Pinochet] I have no comment on this issue. People are now saying that I am making statements because I want to continue in my post, but I do not want to maintain myself in my post at all. In the first place, there will be no vacancy to be filled. No one can replace me because I have the rank of a chief of state and there is no one [words indistinct] only disrepectful newspapers [words indistinct] ... I do not want any problems...

[Reporter, interrupting] ...[words indistinct] Does this idea specifically entail the removal of the Army commander in chief?

[Pinochet] No, they cannot do that. But many mischievous things can be done. Although I do not think they will do them. See you later.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the Honecker case? [end recording]

Official Document on Honecker Case Released

Almeyda To Remain in Chile

PY1003174892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Ministry this morning released an official document on the Honecker case, but it did not provide any new information toward solving this problem.

An announcement was made at noon that the document would not be read by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma but by a spokesman. This responsibility fell on Jose Rodriguez Elizondo, director of the Foreign Ministry Cultural and Information Affairs Department, who said that he would not answer any questions.

The nine-page document gave a solicitous report on Honecker's situation since he entered the Chilean Embassy in Moscow last December until now. The document explains that Honecker's entrance into the Chilean Embassy as a special temporary guest was authorized by the government through the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

After reading the document, Rodriguez Elizondo described the current Chilean position on the Honecker case.

[Begin recording] The Chilean Government, faithful to the policy of seeking among the three governments involved in this case an equitable solution to this case, plans to intensify its contacts with Moscow and Bonn in an effort to achieve a satisfactory end to this situation. [end recording]

He also said that Ambassador Clodomiro Almeyda will remain in Chile. Rodriguez Elizando left the Foreign Ministry's Red Hall without commenting. Several foreign reporters conveyed to him their annoyance, describing the document as a mockery.

At this time Foreign Minister Silva Cimma was meeting with Australian representatives. He will talk to the media this afternoon.

Envoy Travels to Moscow

PY1103003092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] It was learned at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon that there is a special envoy traveling to Moscow at this time. He is diplomat James Holger, a member of the Chilean mission to the United Nations. Holger reportedly will meet with Russian authorities to seek a legal solution to the Honecker case.

According to international law, this is an important institution because a special ambassador has more possibilities to discuss solutions to a problem as complex as this case of the defunct GDR's former ruler, who has been staying at the Chilean Embassy since 11 December 1991. It is also customary to name a person who can be objective.

The Foreign Ministry today released a document explaining the legal and humanitarian reasons for maintaining its position in this complex political and diplomatic dilemma. The document says that the Chilean Government finds grounds for its appreciation of the circumstances affecting the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the gradual transfer of its functions to the Russian Federation in the 1961 Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, which is recognized throughout the world. This Convention establishes that any diplomatic mission can receive a person seeking refuge in it. In light of this, the government decided to grant Erich Honecker the status of temporary guest. The document adds that all states recognize, without exceptions, the legality of a temporary refuge that permits a mission to grant temporary shelter to an individual and negotiate the appropriate guarantees for his safety, health, and the respect of his status as a diplomatic guest, which enjoys a sui generis diplomatic protection.

The Foreign Ministry said the same convention establishes that when the conditions that justified the granting of the temporary refuge end—that is, when the risks or circumstances that endangered the health or physical integrity of the individual are over and there is a reasonable expectation of a just and normal trial—the grounds for granting the refuge, as well as its extension beyond reasonable limits, also will cease. To act otherwise could be interpreted as a transgression or abuse of the diplomatic code. The Foreign Ministry repeatedly stressed the intervention of Russia to help Honecker, for instance, when he was taken to the Chilean Embassy or when Boris Yeltsin offered to solve this problem together with Chile.

The temporary refuge status is being studied at this time because Erich Honecker's health is satisfactory.

Costa Rica's President Ends 'Positive' Visit

PY0903154892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon yesterday ended his four-day official visit to Chile. Calderon was bid farewell at the international airport by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, as well as other civilian and military authorities.

During his stay in Chile, Calderon and President Patricio Aylwin signed several bilateral cooperation agreements that provide for the transfer of technology and experience in the economic field.

During the farewell reception, Silva Cimma said Calderon's visit had been extremely positive, not only because of the agreements signed but because of the meaning represented by maintaining contact with one of the most outstanding Central American countries.

Colombia

Government Issues Document on Peace Negotiations

PA1003212592 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Report by Guillermo Gonzalez]

[Text] The government has just revealed a 13-point document that must be complied with in order to sign a peace accord with the guerrillas. The Presidency of the Republic has just disclosed the document that is the basis for the peace negotiations that begin at 1600 on 10 March in Mexico. The document states that the guerrillas should stop kidnapping Colombians and launching terrorist attacks against oil installations.

The government will notify the guerrillas on 10 March that the cease-fire should take place as early as possible and that it must be verifiable.

A few minutes ago, the government disclosed the agenda it will bring to the negotiating table with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] on 10 March in Mexico. In a 13-point document, the government will propose to the CNGSB new measures to end the armed conflict in Colombia.

The document contains the following proposals:

The guerrillas must defend their ideas without weapons.
The dialogue must become an instrument of peace.
The guerrillas must present their demands to the country.
The rebels cannot continue to attack Colombians and their property.
Peace must be a commitment for all Colombians.
The cease-fire and end of hostilities must be verifiable.
There will be regional forums for peace without the presence of armed groups.
Social policy will be independent from the demobilization.

There will be new prospects and plans for programs of rehabilitation and reincorporation.
The possibility to establish international supervision of the peace agreement is offered.
Colombia will invest more money in security.
There will be stronger justice for a long-lasting peace.
There will be an integral policy to counter violence.

[Begin Government and Interior Minister Humberto de la Calle recording] We are in no position to reach accords or agreements with the rebels without first reaching a cease-fire accord. The cease-fire continues to be a vital element for the government at the Mexico negotiations.

We believe in regional forums for peace that will permit communities and regions to voice their concerns over peace in a civilized manner. But we do not believe in regional dialogue, such as preconceived dialogues of public officials with guerrilla leaders in the departments and municipalities. [end recording]

In addition, the government will insist before the CNGSB that the cease-fire and end of hostilities will be indispensable requirements to continue the peace process.

Guerrilla Spokesman Comments on Peace Talks

PA1103123192 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2020 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Report by Maricel Dieguez]

[Text] La Trinidad, Mexico, 10 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Colombian guerrillas are prepared to talk with the government about a cease-fire, but an agreement is not possible if the government wants a unilateral cease-fire. This was stated here by Andres Paris, a rebel spokesman, on 10 March.

Paris spoke about the beginning of talks between the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board and the Colombian Government in the beach resort in Tlaxcala State (160 km east of Mexico City).

The rebel spokesman said that the government of President Cesar Gaviria cannot propose the discussion of a cease-fire at a moment when "the negotiations agenda has not been covered." Paris believes a cease-fire should follow an agreement and that it would have to be reached once the agenda has been covered. He said that in El Salvador the government and the guerrillas agreed on a cease-fire after they had made progress on other issues on the agenda.

Paris added: "The Colombian Government wants to function backwards. It believes that it is possible to secure a cease-fire without having made progress in other problems the country is enduring."

The guerrilla spokesman said that the Colombian Government wants a military victory at the negotiating table. He admitted the talks are a product, not of an equilibrium of forces, but of a "political necessity."

Government To Spend More on Security, Defense

PA1103150592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2011 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 10 Mar (EFE)—The Colombian Government announced on 10 March that it will allocate more funds for national security and defense and will strengthen the Armed Forces to confront the many afflictions, such as the guerrillas, that disturb public order.

Government Minister Humberto de la Calle said the main goal of the executive branch was to consolidate peace in Colombia. He said it was not enough to hold talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board in order to attain this objective; it required strengthening the Armed Forces and the institutions of justice.

De la Calle asserted: "It is necessary to allot more funds for security and to bolster the Armed Forces. Our current budget for these sectors is small compared to what neighboring countries, which do not have our same problems, spend."

It is also necessary to enhance the justice system so we can overcome impunity, which increases the problems of violence, the minister added. He said the official negotiators at the talks in Mexico will insist on a verifiable cease-fire because if a cease-fire cannot be confirmed the entire process will be jeopardized. Without verification, any possible agreement would be frail and unfavorably influenced by the other problems caused by violence.

In Santa Fe de Bogota, De la Calle presented a document declaring the government's "goal to end the armed conflict." The document will be presented on 10 March, when the peace talks are renewed in Mexico, after nine months of direct but not continuous talks.

In the document, the government confirms that "the new constitutional order of Colombia offers the necessary guarantees for the guerrillas to defend their ideas without weapons" and refers to the profound institutional reforms and work accomplished last year by the Assembly to modify the Constitution.

"There is no argument or excuse for violence. It has no justification whatsoever. The guerrillas cannot continue to be an obstacle to changes or to development. They cannot continue to take refuge in the past," the government stresses in the document.

Further, the government stipulates, "The talks cannot become a simple setting for guerrilla actions." The talks must be "a powerful tool to create and summon all Colombians to construct a future that is absent of violence used as a method to impose a point of view."

De la Calle called on the guerrillas to present their demands and to tell the country why they continue to

bear arms, while the rest of society—the one that the guerrillas say they are defending—are rejecting and criticizing them.

He said it is impossible to carry out positive talks to reach viable conclusions amid guerrilla terrorism . "Colombians no longer believe it is enough for those bearing arms to have good will or to issue optimistic statements. The country demands results," the government minister noted.

Paraguay

Army Commander Discusses State of Armed Forces

PY1003225392 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 8 Mar 92 pp 10-11

[Interview with Army Commander General Ramon Humberto Garcete by Cristian Torres and Cristian Nielsen; place and date not given]

[Text] [NOTICIAS] Democracy requires that the Armed Forces become professionalized. How do you interpret this? Is it possible to do so under the established terms?

[Garcete] We believe that professionalization entails a higher level of training for Armed Forces personnel—from the officers and NCO's who help train the personnel to the graduates who leave the Military School. They must all have the training to command commensurate with their rank: A platoon is commanded by a second lieutenant; a captain has to be able to command a squadron, a company, or a battery unit. The courses offered by the General Staff train the future members and commanders of the General Staff of the large units. And, finally, the National War College trains those promoted to the rank of colonel.

Consequently, we train military men to become good professionals with good academic training and good general knowledge. Many people have said that military men were deeply involved in politics in the past because politicians went to the barracks or because we utilized them. We are trying to change this situation, if it was the case, because the Electoral Law does not allow us to be involved in politics. Military men now only engage in their military careers.

[NOTICIAS] Have you noticed any political sectors within the current Paraguayan society that seek to create a conflict between military men and civilians?

[Garcete] I believe that many concepts that did not exist, or to which we did not listen in the past, have now emerged as a result of the freedom that followed the 3 February 1989 coup. It was said that military men influenced society, that military men or the Armed Forces have always controlled the political area. We want to change this situation. We want to take our place within our units and in society.

No one can say that military men are now involved in things that are not under their jurisdiction. I have always stated that it is necessary to change this attitude and this way of thinking. We are trying to do so, even though it is not easy. (Garcete then mentions that the Higher Command has personally ordered him to begin courses to emphasize the need to change this attitude.)

[NOTICIAS] The Armed Forces are a vertically integrated institution. It seems, however, that they have promoted an internal opening rather than a democratic process following the coup. Is it possible to proceed like this? Have you conquered internal freedom?

[Garcete] All these points have made us change, but even though we are a vertical institution, we have managed to intensify the dialogue with our subordinates. Dialogue with high-ranking officers that did not exist before will, for the present, continue to be vertical. The Armed Forces are made up of two kinds of people: those who order and those who obey. Those who are unable to order or to obey will find their careers terminated.

This is the law that regulates our institution. We can now clearly speak with all politicians under the opening that prevails within the Paraguayan society and that allows us to be closer to civilians. Nobody fears talking with opposition politicians. We can invite them to our homes and to the institution, and there is also a move to become closer to our subordinates. There is a better understanding. It seems that there is more confidence because of the attitude adopted by the commander in chief. (At this point, Garcete digresses to again refer to the Armed Forces' professionalization. He noted that the country is not able to maintain experts paid by the Army, because of what would happen if the budget were to be cut.)

[NOTICIAS] Compulsory recruitment is one of the criticisms being made against the Armed Forces. The violent procedures sometimes used intimidate people.

[Garcete] We want to implement a more humane procedure. We are analyzing the issue because the current law provides for compulsory military service. All citizens old enough to serve the fatherland should enroll, but there are many who try to avoid it, and so we have to control and recruit them. Where do we find them? In buses and at parties, which are always crowded. I realize that this causes problems. We are instructing the National Drafting and Mobilization Directorate [Direccion Nacional de Servicio y Reclutamiento] to recruit people in more appropriate places and not at parties where the people are having a good time. This is what the people do not like, and we understand the situation.

[NOTICIAS] What will happen if the new constitution eliminates compulsory military service? How will this affect the Armed Forces?

[Garcete] It will greatly affect them. We do not know how the people will react because this will be a new

experience. There will be a vacuum at the barracks. We will have to contract people. I do not know what we would do.

[NOTICIAS] From your position on professionalization, do you think that the Armed Forces belong to the nation and not to a determined group?

[Garcete] We are issuing instructions on this very interesting point. In all my speeches and instructions, I have stated that the Armed Forces belong to the nation. I believe that the Armed Forces belong to the nation and that they never belonged to any party, even though all Armed Forces officers belong to the Colorado Party, a fact that nobody can deny. Just like any citizen, we can belong to a party. Some officers could be compelled to join in order to enter the Armed Forces. I joined the Colorado Party because I admire it. But I am a soldier, and I am educated to fulfill the noble mission of training the citizens. We are teachers all our lives.

[NOTICIAS] Does the order given by the former regime, that all officers must join the Colorado Party, definitively belong to the past?

[Garcete] This requisite belongs to the past; it is no longer a requirement to enter the military schools.

[NOTICIAS] Does this mean that we will be able to see general support for the opposition Liberal Party in a few years?

[Garcete] Why not? But this will not be possible for some time, unless an officer only announces that he belongs to the Liberal Party just as he is about to be promoted to the rank of general.

[NOTICIAS] Under the present situation, he can only vote for his party.

[Garcete] Yes, because we will no longer be involved in politics. We want to be respected by the nation, and we want to be considered part of the nation and not of a party. This is the way we are thinking now, despite the fact that we are affiliated with a party. Our career is the most important thing for us.

[NOTICIAS] How do you react when a leader of the Colorado Party says that the Armed Forces are and will continue to be affiliated to the Colorado Party?

[Garcete] I believe that is a bit fanatical. It is provoked by party fervor, knowing that many party members are in the Armed Forces. But we think differently. No one can say: 'We are at the service of the Colorado Party.' No one can say that, because we cannot teach our soldiers nationalism and patriotism if we belong to a party. We belong to the nation. The alternative is not compatible with our position.

[NOTICIAS] What do you thing about the idea that the president could delegate his position as commander in chief of the Armed Forces?

[Garcete] I believe that the president of the Republic must be the supreme commander of the Armed Forces and the police. The president must be the supreme commander. The next president will be a civilian; he will no longer be a member of the Armed Forces because the electoral law does not allow it. Therefore, the president will need an officer to command the Armed Forces because they are professional forces that must be thoroughly understood to be governed with efficiency, and also for the Armed Forces to fulfill their role. This is why I believe that the president, as the supreme commander, will need a commander in chief of the Armed Forces, or a general commander of the Armed Forces. We can even change his title because the president needs a general to be his mediator, an officer who with his general staff will have the full confidence of the president and supreme commander, who will not have to delegate anything because he will continue to be the supreme commander. Therefore, the president will be the one giving orders through the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. If there is no longer a position of commander in chief, how will the president give his orders? Through the commander of the Air Force, the commander of the Navy or the commander of the Army or through their staff? This is why we believe that the president must delegate his position as commander of the Armed Forces.

[NOTICIAS] The Constituent Assembly members who advocate that the position cannot be delegated believe that there will be a parallel power.

[Garcete] A parallel power ... but it seems to me that there will always be a parallel power, because the ones who will have the direct command of the Army, Navy, and Air Force will be their commanders; therefore, the parallel power will always exist.

[NOTICIAS] Does the position of commander in chief exist in other countries?

[Garcete] In Bolivia, there is the captain general, and other countries also have them. People here are only concerned about the Armed Forces because there is a position of commander in chief. But why is there a police chief? Why does the president not command the police, which are also a powerful force? Why is it that people are not concerned with the position of the police chief because the police are another force? How capable is a civilian if he does not understand our structure and organization? He can make many mistakes, but the president must not make mistakes, and this is why he should have an officer of his full confidence for the job. If there is no longer a commander in chief, another high position would be eliminated in the Armed Forces. Apart from that position, the only way to become an Army general is by becoming commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

[NOTICIAS] That officer must have the president's confidence. Would his appointment be up to the president or to the Armed Forces?

[Garcete] This is a very interesting and delicate question. Let us assume that the president wanted to appoint a colonel. The officer to be appointed must have some qualifications to become the commander in chief. The president would consider our structure and perhaps meet with a group of generals to ask their advice. The president may get a list of three candidates from which to choose, but this list would respect the echelon of command and seniority that is very important for our structure.

[NOTICIAS] Would that be a step toward a more complex transition, or would it be a permanent procedure?

[Garcete] I think this is a step toward a transition that will be intensified over the years as a normal thing. I believe that coup d'etats have been overcome and that they should be forgotten forever. I hope I am not wrong. We should let politicians rule the country. If a general wants to govern, he will have to retire to launch his candidacy if he is promoted and if he is accepted, but as a politician and not as a general.

[NOTICIAS] How is corruption being faced within the Armed Forces?

[Garcete] We are changing our attitude and our way of thinking. We are instructing the Armed Forces members to love the few things they have. The Armed Forces personnel are not well paid, but we should be content with what we have given our very arduous career. Imagine those people living in Lagerenza, Chaco region, and in a military post for several years. They are isolated and do not have the comfort of the city. This is why I said that we have an arduous career. We achieve spiritual rather than economic satisfaction. We are teaching this attitude at the military schools because there was a time when cadets chose a specific branch because he would be assigned like that to the border area. We are changing this way of thinking. We want officers to be content with what they have and not to attempt to obtain more, because this way of thinking gets them involved in inappropriate matters. We try to post officers, sergeants, and soldiers on the border for just a short time. They are relieved every two months so they cannot become very acquainted and indebted to anybody. Every man has his price, and there is great temptation. People involved in illegal activities do anything to buy our personnel.

[NOTICIAS] While progress is being made in this educative task, will those involved in confirmed acts of corruption be punished?

[Garcete] We will do so. We have already ordered pretrial inquests against several persons who were proven to be involved in corruption. There is a firm decision to adopt measures because we want to be proud, not just because we are good soldiers, but because we are honorable and have a high morale.

Peru

Fujimori To Create Urban Defense Patrols

PY1003163492 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Feb 92 p A4

[Report by special correspondent Gladys Bernal Barzola]

[Excerpt] Tingo Maria, 21 Feb—Based on the success achieved by the peasant defense patrols throughout our country, President Alberto Fujimori today announced his firm decision to create urban defense patrols in response to terrorist actions in the capital.

The chief of state said: "The Shining Path cannot say it is advancing. On the contrary, the people are organizing themselves in the rural areas. Thus, many zones are being recovered. Therefore, we have also decided to create urban defense patrols, especially in the shantytowns. The Armed Forces will support these urban defense patrols."

Recalling the despicable killing of [shantytown leader] Maria Elena Moyano, the president announced that he will redouble security for popular leaders. Nevertheless, he asked rank-and-file organizations to cooperate with the Armed Forces to achieve the maximum security possible.

President Fujimori emphasized that, in keeping with recent events, both the Shining Path and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] have lost their direction because they have passed from a pseudo-revolutionary logic to intimidation. [passage omitted]

Senator Denounces Withdrawal From Copper Council

PY1003210192 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 21 Feb 92 p 4

[Excerpts] Senator Gustavo Mohme (United Left) yesterday told a congressional standing commission that the government recently withdrew our country from the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC). In doing so, it violated current regulations.

Peru withdrew on 30 December 1990 [year as published], when the energy and mines minister sent a letter to the CIPEC secretary general informing him of the decision.

Mohme said yesterday that the minister thereby violated the law because he encroached upon the Foreign Ministry's domain. The congressman noted that the Foreign Ministry conducts the foreign policy as outlined by the president of the Republic.

The Energy and Mines Ministry has other powers, such as "formulating and evaluating domestic policies in the field of energy and mining, protecting the environment, controlling the pollution produced by these activities, and supervising the implementation of these policies," Mohme added.

Mohme added that the Constitution establishes that the president of the Republic, with congressional approval, has the power to denounce treaties.

Mohme said that the CIPEC statutes, which are its international charter, represent a treaty. Peru joined this organization in July 1969. [passage omitted]

Approval to join the CIPEC did not pass through Congress when Peru joined the organization because the Revolutionary Government of the Armed Forces was in power at that time. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Perez Issues Decrees on Leadership Changes

New Cabinet Ministers Appointed

PA1003184592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1618 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Decree No. 2126 issued by President Carlos Andres Perez, read by Pedro Segundo Blanco, secretary of the Council of Ministers, at Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic, empowered by the duties prescribed in Paragraph 2 of Article 190 of the Constitution, decrees:

Article 1: I accept the resignations submitted by the ministers of interior affairs, foreign relations, development, justice, and family.

Article 2: I appoint:

Minister of Interior Affairs Luis Pinerua Ordaz
Minister of Foreign Relations Humberto Calderon Berti
Minister of Development Pedro Vallenilla
Minister of Justice Jose Mendoza Angulo
Minister of Family Teresa Albanez Barnola

[Issued] Caracas, 10 March 1992
Year 181 of the Independence and 133 of the Federation
[Signed] Carlos Andres Perez

Investment, COPRE Ministers Named

PA1003184692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1618 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Decree No. 2127 issued by President Carlos Andres Perez, read by Pedro Segundo Blanco, secretary of the Council of Ministers, at Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic, empowered by the duties prescribed in Paragraph 2 of Article 190 and Article 194 of the Constitution, in line with Article 3 of the Basic Law of the Central Administration, Article 9 and 12 of the Venezuelan Investment Fund, and Article 4 of Decree No. 94 dated 15 March 1989, decrees:

Article 1: I accept the resignations submitted by the minister of state, president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund; and the minister of state, president of the Presidential Committee to Reform the State [COPRE].

Article 2: I appoint Minister of State Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon, president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund; and Minister of State Jose Andres Octavio, president of the Presidential Committee to Reform the State.

[Issued] Caracas, 10 March 1992

Year 181 of the Independence and 133 of the Federation

[Signed] Carlos Andres Perez

Acting Attorney General Appointed

PA1003184792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1618 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Decree No. 2128 issued by President Carlos Andres Perez, read by Pedro Segundo Blanco, secretary of the Council of Ministers, at Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic, in accordance with Article 17 of the Basic Law of the Attorney General's Office, decrees:

Only Article: Nelson Jose Socorro Calderas is appointed to hold the post of attorney general provisionally.

[Issued] Caracas, 10 March 1992
Year 181 of the Independence and 133 of the Federation
[Signed] Carlos Andres Perez
[Countersigned] Celestino Armas, minister of the Presidency's Secretariat

Perez Discusses Changes

PA1003192592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1618 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez at swearing-in ceremony of new ministers at the Miraflores Palace—live]

[Text] Messrs. Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen: At this ceremony, I swore in the group of ministers who joined my executive cabinet and an acting attorney general of the Republic—because he must be ratified by the Senate—as required by our Constitution.

On this occasion, I thought it advisable to briefly point out the significance of this ceremony. It is more than simply appointing a group of distinguished personalities who will now accompany me in leading the government of the Republic at the Ministries of Interior Affairs, Foreign Relations, Coordination and Planning, Justice, and Family, and at the Investment Fund of Venezuela and the Presidential Commission for State Reform, and at the Attorney General's Office.

The country and I expect them to perform exceptionally because of the outstanding qualities that distinguish them and the circumstances surrounding the time they

have become part of the national government. I cannot overlook my obligation to voice my sincere congratulations to the ministers who were replaced following their resignations. They served the Republic in the best way they could. I have fond memories of their tenures and wish to take advantage of this opportunity to voice my sincere recognition.

This partial change of the Council of Ministers responds to our faithful fulfillment—and the people may permanently monitor this—of the commitments we accepted at the memorable moment when I received the contributions of the initial regular sessions of the 1992 Congress that began on 6 March. I conveyed to the country the recommendations made by the Presidential Advisory Council that I established days ago, to cooperate with the president in the task of reflecting on and assessing the course of the Republic at a time when developments have shaken our fatherland and forced us to stop and reflect.

The eight citizens who make up the Presidential Advisory Council, who are rendering important services to me, presented me with their recommendations. These recommendations, which were fully welcomed, included the advisability or possibility of reshuffling my Council of Ministers.

I am presenting some of those reforms now, those that I considered convenient at this time. What is more important, however, is that a very important political party in our country, the Social Christian party, COPEI,—that shares fundamental responsibilities with the Democratic Action [AD] in Congress—has accepted the participation of some of its members in the government. This is in direct response to the advisory council's recommendation and to my own personal request. We are not dealing here with a coalition or a specific arrangement of COPEI with the government. Rather, it is an expression of the idea that we should all value what all Venezuelans are worth; we should value the sense of responsibility of this political party, which has agreed to demonstrate its solidarity with the Venezuelan democratic government in this manner now that we are faced with a crisis. I will make reference to this crisis in a third message to Congress on 12 March.

COPEI tells the country in this way that it is not removed from the situation we are going through. This means that their members, if they are called upon by the president of the Republic—without entailing or encumbering their opposition activities—can give their cooperation under these circumstances and conditions. In this way, the nation is given the sense that it is not losing its course and that Venezuela is consolidating its democratic process. Also, the government that I preside over is willing to continue with reflections and considerations that the current times demand and that, as a result of the good judgment with which we will lead the nation—guided by the advisory council—it may consider us worthy.

On this occasion, I certify that the government, all of its ministers, and all of the authorities are committed to proceed with these difficult responsibilities, in full cooperation with the Congress and the judicial branch. In the coming days, we will continue implementing—without unnecessary or damaging delays and without procrastination—all the changes and recommendations that we stated in our message of 6 March. These changes have already been introduced in the Congress with two fundamental laws regarding the restructuring of the judicial branch—which has been so criticized, just like the other branches—in this phase our nation is experiencing. I will not use pessimistic or catastrophic phrases to describe this time; it is a time of crisis. It is a crisis the nation certainly needed for all Venezuelans to ponder our responsibilities and our role in the different activities that we are engaged in—be it in the government, in the opposition, in the industrial, cultural, scientific sectors, or in labor union activity. No matter what activity we are engaged in, we Venezuelans all have the responsibility to consider that our road is this one, the road of democracy. Our responsibility is this: understanding and consensus among all the sectors of our nation.

With optimism and in strict compliance with my duties, I greet you new ministers, and I invite you who are integrated in the cabinet to devote yourselves with all your love for Venezuela and with your willingness to work, to fulfill the commitments we have undertaken and that we are now ratifying. Thank you very much.

President, Ministers Make Statements

PA1103043192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Passages within quotation marks recorded; report broadcast in progress]

[Text] ... not only among the democratic parties, but among authorized and proven sectors, the ministerial cabinet was formed to include two members of COPEI [Social Christian Party]: Humberto Calderon Berti, in the Foreign Ministry, and Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon, in the Venezuelan Investment Fund [FIV], replacing Armando Duran and Gerver Torres respectively.

The interior minister is Luis Pinerua Ordaz, as was previously announced; the justice minister is Jesus Mendoza Angulo; and the development minister is Pedro Vallenilla, who until 9 March was president of the company, Venepal. Heading COPRE [Presidential Committee to Reform the State] is Jose Andres Octavio, who founded this committee in 1984. The new family minister, Teresa Alvanez, was UNICEF's representative for Latin America, and Nelson Socorro, acting attorney general until Congress confirms him, was a legal adviser to Congress.

President Carlos Andres Perez said: "I take this opportunity to confirm that the government, all of its ministers, and all of its authorities are determined to carry out their difficult duties, with the full cooperation of Congress and the judicial branch. Over the course of the next few days, we will produce—without unnecessary or

harmful delays—all the changes and recommendations I stated in my message on 6 March, which already have begun with the introduction in Congress of two fundamental laws concerning the restructuring of the republic's judicial branch, which has been subjected to criticism—as have the other branches of state—during the current phase our country is going through.

I will not describe this phase in pessimistic or catastrophic terms. It is a crisis, one that the country surely needed in order to make every Venezuelan reflect upon his duties and roles in a variety of activities—be they in the government, in the opposition, in industrial, cultural, scientific, or labor activities, or in any national activity in which we all share equal responsibilities. Therefore, Venezuelans are made to think with determination that democracy is our path and that understanding and agreement among every sector of national life is our duty."

Justice Minister Jose Mendoza Angulo said: "I have patriotically responded to the invitation extended to me by the president to collaborate with him at an especially difficult time for the country. I have promised and have just sworn to work with a sense of responsibility, making every effort and using all of my capabilities to cooperate with the president and the country so as to overcome the serious difficulties we currently face."

Meanwhile, Development Minister Pedro Vallenilla said: "I believe that the Development Ministry, by definition, is the ministry that promotes national development. Starting in half an hour, I will devote myself to this."

An unidentified reporter asked: "Do you have any immediate actions in mind?"

Vallenilla responded: "First, I must become fully acquainted with the program that the ministry is carrying out. I will hold several meetings with Minister Cisneros, who I believe has done an excellent job as minister, and I will maintain close contact with the media—I must tell you this—as soon as I take over the ministry and become knowledgeable of its programs and their development."

Foreign Minister Calderon Berti said: "This is a cabinet of national unity. I have joined the government at the president's request, particularly because the country is facing great difficulties, and I could not elude this responsibility. I believe that every Venezuelan who can make a contribution must do so in order to overcome the crisis by admitting the mistakes that have been made and by making the corrections for which the country has yearned for some time, so that we can restore the people's tranquillity and definitively guide the country along a course of progress, prosperity, and well-being for all Venezuelans, without exception."

COPRE Director Jose Andres Octavio said: "I have accepted this post at the president's request as a contribution—which is how he describes it—to carry out the reforms that will make the country overcome the crisis it is facing, and to bring the progress that the people need and expect."

FIV Director Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon said: "I believe that we need a strong state, which is part of our plan. However, for the state to be strong, it must be agile, and this is why the privatization process must be followed with two very important goals in mind: It must be very honest, and it must contribute to the democratization of capital."

Today, perhaps more than ever, the final phrase of each minister's oath is in force: If you fail to fulfill your duty, may God and the fatherland demand it of you.

New Foreign Minister Meets Press

PA1103001892 Caracas Venezolana de Television network in Spanish 1651 GMT 10 Mar 92

[News conference by Foreign Minister Humberto Calderon Berti with unidentified reporters at Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Humberto Calderon Berti, the newly sworn-in foreign minister, is just coming down the steps of Miraflores Palace. Minister, what are your impressions about this new cabinet? What are your plans?

[Calderon] This is a cabinet of national unity. I have joined the government at the request of the president. I have done this especially because the country is experiencing great difficulties. I could not shun this responsibility because I think all Venezuelans who have something to contribute should do so to overcome the crisis. We must acknowledge the mistakes that have been made and make the changes the country has been seeking for so long. In this way, we can restore calm and lead all Venezuelans, without exception, along the path of progress, prosperity, and well-being.

[Reporter] Do you think this new cabinet will find solutions to the country's problems?

[Calderon] I think we have a great challenge. The country knows most of the new cabinet members well. The people know my background as a professional. I have waged a serious and responsible opposition role, pointed out the mistakes that have been made, and recognized the government's accomplishments. I have a great commitment to the country. My credibility before the country is at stake. In my public life, I have maintained a consistent position, whether I have been in the government or the opposition. The fact that I am now joining the government does not mean I am going to change. I believe I must continue to maintain the views I have held regarding Venezuela's basic problems so that the government can fulfill the aspirations and expectations of the Venezuelan people through my participation. We have established a democratic system, but the people first want an efficient democracy that will solve their basic problems, and secondly, they want a decent and honest democracy in which once and for all we

Venezuelans can coexist in peace and calm and the entire country can progress together.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] you plan to do?

[Calderon] The Foreign Ministry is an instrument of the national government and Venezuela for the defense of their territorial, economic, and cultural interests. Therefore, I will work to make sure the Foreign Ministry will respond to the country's expectations and aspirations in these new times.

[Reporter] Since this is a new experience, with people outside the ruling party joining the cabinet, might there be some problem with party discipline?

[Calderon] I have joined the cabinet of President Perez' government with the authorization of the Social Christian Party, COPEI, of which I am a leader and a member. Nevertheless, in no way does this mean this is a national coalition government. Instead, it means the incorporation into the president's cabinet of individuals who, because of their personal prestige and credibility and the confidence the country has in them, have been called to form part of the cabinet during these difficult times. I do not represent COPEI within the cabinet. Instead, I have been authorized, as I should be, to participate in the government. I hope the relationship I maintain with my party and with all the parties and sectors of Venezuela will be harmonious for the benefit of all Venezuelans.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Calderon] I believe there are several issues that deserve Venezuela's immediate attention. First, we are committed to the democratization process of Latin America, because we see democracy as the best system of government. We must keep trying to strengthen democracy in Latin America. Second, I believe the process to find peace is also very important, particularly in areas that have been in turmoil for many years. Such is the case with Central America, where there are very substantial peace initiatives in progress. We find these efforts very positive, and we are going to support them.

In the area of international commercial relations, all of Venezuela is aware of my training and my record as an oil man. Oil is Venezuela's main product, and it generates the larger part of the country's income. I will make every effort to use oil as an international negotiating tool, for the benefit of all Venezuelans.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]...rest of the countries of the world on Venezuela?

[Calderon] I think we are going through a difficult moment. We must all try to pull through, with the changes that have been established.

[Reporter] Are you going to act more cautiously on the border issues, Mr. Minister?

[Calderon] I believe that—as we celebrate 500 years of the meeting of two civilizations, during which the gulf has always been ours—it will continue to belong to us because it is a vital area for Venezuela.

[Reporter] However, Mr. Minister, [words indistinct] in this case?

[Calderon] Right now, I think the country is focused on how to get out of the crisis. Any personal aspirations must be put to one side, because the basic thing is for us to be able to contribute to finding stability for the democratic institutions and for Venezuela's progress.

'Mass Protest Demonstration' Called For 10 Mar

Armed Forces Placed on Alert

PA1003170992 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1604 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 10 Mar (EFE)—The Venezuelan Army was confined to garrisons and placed on a state of alert on 10 March. This is in response to a call for a mass protest demonstration on the night of 10 March against the government of President Carlos Andres Perez.

Clandestine organizations and civilian associations are asking the people to turn off their lights intermittently, bang pots, and shout slogans against the government at 2000.

A demonstration of professors, residents, and students was dispersed by the police when they tried to hold a rally in Bolivar Plaza in downtown Caracas. The protest had earlier been banned by the governor's office of the city capital.

Interior Minister Carmelo Lauria said the government is ready to confront "any situation that disrupts normalcy." Rear Admiral Jose Huizi, spokesman for the Defense Ministry, said 10 March that the Armed Forces have been "strictly confined" to quarters.

Huizi issued an official communique stating: "The Armed Forces are totally united, prepared, and ready to defend the democratic system, constitutionality, and sovereignty of the Republic."

The Foreign Ministry reported security forces cordoned off Caracas "at the four cardinal points," with a strong deployment of investigation organization members, who are keeping tabs on suspects in the protest demonstrations.

President Carlos Andres Perez said in a televised program on 8 March that his government will not tolerate extremist groups taking advantage of the existing critical situation in the country to create disturbances. Similar protests, with turning lights off and banging pots, were held last 27 February, the third anniversary of the "shaking" events that took place in Venezuela in 1989.

On that date, the inhabitants of neighborhoods of Caracas went out on the street to protest against the increase in prices of staple products that led to disturbances repressed by the Army, resulting in hundreds of deaths.

Meanwhile, military officers who led the attempted coup on 4 February issued a statement, published by EL NACIONAL on 10 March, in which they claim they were only attempting "a true leap toward democracy."

Army Colonel Ramon Natera, permanent military judge in Caracas, issued arrest warrants on 10 March against Lieutenant Colonels Jesus Ortiz and Joel Chirinos. He announced that he will issue one shortly against the coup leader Hugo Chavez, accused of military rebellion.

Another communique, signed by the Institute of Retired Officers (IORFAN) [Instituto de Oficiales en Retiro] published by all the Caracas newspapers on 10 March, expresses its support for the arrested rebel leaders. It criticizes, however, the use of a coup d'etat.

IORFAN President General Jacobo Yepez, who was put under arrest following the attempted coup, labelled the rebels as "young officers full of ideals and dreams who had jeopardized their lives and their careers in an attempt to render a service to the nation."

According to the retired military officers, the attempted coup "opened the road to democracy because it made clear to the political leaders that they had lost the right to continue leading the country."

According to a document by Army Commander in Chief General Pedro Rangel published 10 March in EL GLOBO, more than 17 Army units were involved in the failed coup. The newspaper adds that Rangel ordered the change of name of 15 battalions and denied the incorporation into the Army of two elite battalions because they were implicated in the military coup.

In addition, red berets, symbol of the parachute battalions who took up the call to arms, were eliminated from the military uniform.

Caracas, Interior Protests Reported

PA1103022192 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0018 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 10 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Disturbances and antigovernment demonstrations, during which five persons were injured, spread throughout various sectors of Caracas on 10 March. It was also reported that similar incidents took place throughout the interior of the country.

Police have reported that, following a demonstration in downtown Caracas that was dispersed by security forces using tear gas and birdshot, violent incidents took place in the eastern and western sectors of Caracas. Attempts to loot were controlled by the police in the noisy commercial districts of Chacao and Chacaito in the eastern sector of Caracas. No serious incidents were reported.

Neighborhood organizations and Central University of Venezuela (UCV) student leaders have reiterated their call for the people to protest by banging pots and pans and turning their lights off. This protest will begin at 2200 (0200 GMT on 11 March). It will be the second such demonstration in the past two weeks to protest the economic policy of the government of President Carlos Andres Perez. Repeated requests for Perez' resignation have accompanied these protests.

A poll conducted on 10 March showed that 49 percent of the people in Caracas will support the 11 March protest, 46 percent said that they have nothing to protest, and 6 percent said that they are undecided. The 52 percent majority—those who will not protest and those who are undecided—could be the result of a series of economic and social changes announced last week by Perez in an attempt to overcome the political crisis that resulted following the failed coup of 4 February. The government measures include a temporary freeze on the prices of basic products, medicine, and fuel, so that transportation rates will not be affected. Increases in transportation rates sparked the violent 1991 street demonstration.

Five persons—according to the police, three—were injured during the 10 March protests that also resulted in three vehicles (an urban bus and two pick-up trucks) being partially burned and the the windows of a vehicle owned by the national telephone company being broken.

Organizers of the protest in downtown Caracas had planned to convene an open town council meeting to state their demands to the government. They have charged that "groups" from the ruling Democratic Action Party (AD) and the Social Christian Party (COPEI), the main opposition party, infiltrated the protesters to provoke the police.

In the western sector of El Paraiso, students of the Pedagogic Institute of Caracas erected barricades of tires and garbage. The police cordoned off the area.

The center of the city, where the first disturbances took place at the beginning of a long campaign that should end with the "banging of pots and pans" (cacerolazo), remained under strict police and military surveillance.

The security measures were intensified as new demonstrations were expected, particularly due to Perez' scheduled participation of a session of Congress on 12 March, when he will present his annual activities report.

In the Yaguara industrial district, the western part of the Venezuelan capital, a police department spokesman reported that policemen escorted a truck from the "Luis Caballero Mejias" school to keep it from going into potential conflict areas. The UCV campus was cordoned-off by policemen late in the afternoon.

There were student demonstrations in Maracay and other towns in neighboring Aragua State, but the radio reports did not mention anyone being wounded or arrested.

In Barquisimento, 350 km west of Caracas, a "leaflet bomb," with leaflets alluding to the failed uprising last month, exploded at the entrance to a local station, but yielded no casualities or damage. Packages with leaflets appeared in the downtown Caracas "Parque Central" commercial and housing complex.

In the Valles Del Tuy, a concentration of 10 housing areas south of Caracas, authorities ordered the suspension of classes and activities in municipal offices to prevent the violence in the capital from extending to that populous area.

The protests take place while the partial suspension of the constitutional guarantees is still in effect. The partial suspension of constitutional guarantees have affected, among other things, the freedom of association and public protest since February.

Former President Luis Herrera Campins (1979-84) warned that the "banging of pots and pans" (cacerolazos) could conceal the intentions of extreme right-wing groups to promote a new military uprising, as happened in Chile in 1973.

Interior Minister Addresses Nation

PA1103040792 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 0219 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Interview with Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz by unidentified reporter at Radio Rumbos' studios in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Good evening, Mr. Luis Pinerua Ordaz. Rumbos Newscast is completely at your disposal. Rumbos Newscast is always at the service of Venezuelan democracy. It is always at the service of the national pride that has characterized the people of Venezuela throughout the nation's history. Today is no exception. We have received many telephone calls telling us that people have been beating pots and pans in various sectors of Caracas, showing the considerable national pride of the people of Caracas. What is your impression? What can you tell us about this activity currently under way in the capital city and throughout many parts of Venezuela?

[Pinerua Ordaz] I have come personally to Radio Rumbos as a minister whose duty it is to guarantee peace in the republic and to safeguard public order, to tell the Venezuelan people that this eminently civic campaign that they began today is becoming complicated because agitators who want to disturb constitutional order are urging the people to pillage—which the government is not willing to tolerate. The government has absolute control of the situation. It is perfectly capable of guaranteeing tranquility and order, so I must state that, although the government respects civic demonstrations, regardless of whether they are for or against the government, it does not permit the disturbance of public order.

Therefore, I must address the citizenry. The media—this is why I came especially to Radio Rumbos—must help prevent any threat to constitutional order. It must be understood that the media should be the first to act against campaigns that try to spread these demonstrations and concurrently promote the success of agitators who are calling on the people to resume or to join activities like pillaging. I am cordially and democratically inviting Radio Rumbos to adopt a stand consistent with this line of thought. I think this would be a responsible and serious stand. This is why I have come as interior minister. I came here directly from my office to say this. I tell all Venezuelans that the preservation of democracy and the state of law is in the hands of, and is the responsibility of, the government. Nevertheless, should democracy and the state of law become endangered, all Venezuelans will be affected.

I ask my fellow countrymen to have faith and to trust in the government's ability to correct its mistakes. As interior minister, a post I assumed today, I guarantee that measures will be taken to correct the vices and distortions we all have been experiencing. We will wage a continual struggle against (?corruption) in the administration. We will reorganize the police and outline an effective administrative policy to defeat the crooks who have declared war on society. We will take measures to improve public services so that Venezuelan democracy can show that it truly works. I ask all Venezuelans not to lose faith, to confirm their trust in democracy, and to ignore the call of agitators who are not at all seeking the country's well-being but want to see us all prostrated.

[Reporter] Minister, we have received several calls from Caracas inspectors reporting the presence of what is commonly known as trigger-happy men. We also have received phone calls from people who recognize the stand of the Metropolitan Police and other police organizations of Caracas, who never provoked the population. Do the police have to respond to the phone calls of residents who report the presence of these trigger-happy men in some areas of Caracas?

[Pinerua] It would be necessary to determine who these trigger-happy individuals are. All police organizations have been instructed not to use firearms unless absolutely necessary. We have reports, however, that people are being fired at to create unrest and anxiety and to disrupt public order. May I reiterate that such actions go against the interests of all Venezuelans and the country. The government will not tolerate them. On the contrary, we demand solidarity to correct this situation.

[Reporter] We have been telling the people to report these actions with the concern that has always marked us. Here is our colleague, Teresa Manila [words indistinct], who wishes to make some remarks.

[Manila] Mr. Minister, it has been said that Radio Rumbos has been calling the people to join the protest because somehow it has succeeded. Our role, however, has always been to report and never to (?harangue) the people. [Words indistinct]

[Pinerua] I urge the station to continue this way; otherwise the station's stand [words indistinct]. The media would be the most affected [words indistinct]. I urge the station to adopt the most responsible stand in this difficult time we are experiencing.

[Manila] Mr. Minister, we are meeting the challenge of reporting. You know this because you have always defended the laws of freedom. [Pinerua] That is why I am here.

[Manila] Of course. We truly appreciate your visiting us at Radio Rumbos.

It is 2225. We are reporting to the people who are listening to us and to the country that the minister's words are being broadcast live. The minister is here at the studios. Mr. Minister, we are true followers of democracy. Not only that, but early on 4 February, when nothing had yet been defined, we stood by the democratic system.

[Pinerua] This is why I ask you to adopt a stand consistent with this permanent adherence of yours to the democratic system. Do not do any anything to harm the democratic system. On the contrary, help keep it safe. I hope you will.

Banging of Pots, Pans Reported

PA1103025592 Paris AFP in Spanish 0155 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 10 Mar (AFP)—Eyewitnesses and telephone callers report that the noisy banging of pots and pans and the turning off of lights in homes to demand the resignation of President Carlos Andres Perez began on 11 March throughout Caracas and cities in the interior of the country. The "concert" by popular organizations began 30 minutes ahead of schedule, at 2200 (0200 GMT). Members of the National Guard and police patrolled the empty streets of downtown Caracas and fired sporadic shots into the air.

Telephone callers also reported that improvised barricades had been erected in several Caracas neighborhoods and cities in the interior of the country.

Situation 'Back to Normal'

PA1103040892 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] One of the first things that new Interior Affairs Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz has done is to meet with Venezuelan Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich and Caracas Governor Antonio Ledezma. At the end of the meeting, both Ochoa and Ledezma stressed that the situation is back to normal throughout the country.

[Begin recording] [Ochoa] The military situation is completely normal at present. With regard to public order, as the people of Venezuela know, there were some small disturbances in the center of the city on 10 March. That situation has been completely controlled by the forces of public order.

I would like to take this opportunity to send a cordial greeting to the Venezuelan people, as well as a message of faith in the great renewal that is presently underway in Venezuela. I am sure that, through peace, the Venezuelan people will find a new path that will open a new destiny. This, in turn, will take the country down a new path.

[Ledezma] With regard to the demonstration that was to take place in Plaza Bolivar on 10 March, we were very clear in saying that the demonstration was not authorized for security reasons, and also because of all the changes that have been taking place within our public security forces.

As a matter of fact, this measure also has affected Democratic Action leaders because I had told them that I would not authorize the public meeting they wanted to organize in Plaza Bolivar to celebrate the International Year of the Woman. As you can see, we are acting in an objective fashion, and this is only for the purpose of guaranteeing peace for all citizens. [end recording]